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The Shrubby Border
The Rose—The Lath House—The Gardens
Growing Flowers from Seed
Me and Rainmaker Hatfield (*an interview*)
Monthly Exposition Excursion

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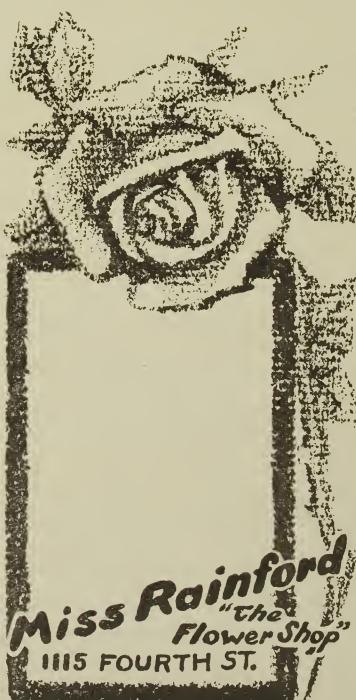
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The California Garden

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No. 8

HERE is good reason to believe that too much has been written about the floods of last month, or at any rate too much improperly digested matter, for we are now complaining about the misrepresentations of outside papers that have builded their stories upon our own first wild estimates. Nevertheless the matter is so vital to the activities in the field that California Garden seeks to serve, that it must have its little say. There is as little use crying over spilt water as spilt milk, and the consideration of why dams went out and bridges followed suit is one for engineers, and the "I told you so" brigade ought to be arrested for not having insisted on their warnings being heeded. Theirs was contributory negligence. In reviewing the situation it is evident that this is not an isolated experience so far as water is concerned. The season of 1883-4 gave San Diego 25.97 inches, with 9.05 in February, followed by 6.23 in March, but then we were not so settled up, had no dams, and plenty of room for the water. With this 25-inch record history it would seem the part of sanity to suppose that it may come again and in reconstruction, we must build for the extreme, as averages don't apply where it is a question of the strain of the highest wave.

The disaster was more local than communal, though of course it is the latter through sympathy and its expression materially, the water available or to become so shortly is more than the city ever had before, and the possibilities of future development have widened considerably.

It has been called an act of God, also been passed on to Nature, but surely much of the damage is directly traceable to man. *His* dams broke, *his* culvertless roads washed out, *HIS* interruption of natural water channels caused most of the damage, and quite possibly his removal of brush from the watersheds allowed the water to flood. We blame no man. To us it seems a case of concentrating on reconstruction and in doing so never forgetting that years of phenomenal rainfall are ahead of as they are

behind the present moment. Our canyons were cut by water, and more than likely the same agency carved out our bay, and it is not wise to suppose that things that have been will not be allowed to occur again because by so coming they might disturb us.

Our public officials have a big task before them, and they should have a sympathetic people behind them as long as they show ability to realize the situation and cope with it, but the main issue is altogether too important to allow of sentiment and that issue is reconstruction on the best possible lines.

After what we said last month it is impossible to avoid reference to Hatfield and his rainmaking operations. Since the floods we have been continually asked whether in our judgment he had anything to do with the extra amount of rain. We have pointed out that places beyond his influence, as limited by himself, have gotten much wetter than usual, and then added we don't know. One of our questioners added the rider that if Hatfield showed up at Lakeside he might get an unpleasant reception. This is human nature. It is long odds that those who now would like to at least say a thing or two to the rainmaker, openly derided his pretensions less than a month ago.

It is quite evident that rainmaking won't be a pleasant or safe business till it is under good control, both as to quantity and locality. We won't put up with our neighbor ordering a shower to help his turnips the day we are cutting hay unless he keeps his old rain on his own land, and it would be an optimist indeed who thought all the dwellers in an extended area could be gotten to agree on the time for a rainstorm. If all the men were agreed, it might be washing day and now women have votes. Half a think will present a string of fearful complications.

One cannot but be interested in what will be done with Hatfield's claim for his \$10,000. If the council pay it they may get mobbed. If they don't they will have to explain a certain meeting, but this is their

matter, we had almost written funeral, but it seemed too suggestive.

It is good to see the community as a whole rising to the aid of the sufferers. Perhaps in the future we may be able to look back on this time, not so much as a

day of loss but one of gain, when a great need called our big family together to meet it. This year must necessarily be one of special effort, special denial, but of such is built the lasting good of a community.

Rose Time in Southern California

HE prospect for roses is very good if the saying of that eminent authority Dean Hole, that a rose wanted a warm head and cold feet be true, especially as to the condition of the feet. Certainly the wood appears better ripened than usual. Buds seem to be pushing very fast and may be caught by a cold snap, even if there are two more dormant ones to take the place. This means rising sap and pruning must be hurried or left undone. With such a store of water in the ground where it was left open to receive it, the chief care must be to conserve this supply, and the main method is by cultivation. Most of our soil is of the quick action kind. It is wet or it is dry and the time between is but momentary, therefore it is wise to cultivate wet rather than dry and repeat the dose in a couple of days. This cultivation must be deep as the constant rain has packed the earth pretty solid. Now is the time to apply fertiliser as a mulch after cultivation and let the coming showers carry in the essence, then spade it under about the end of this month. There is still time to plant, good time too and folks should remember this is another exposition year and we are in duty bound to show improvement.

The experience of ten years with a soil limited to some foot in depth and too light for good rose growth at that, has led the writer to conclude that no varieties of roses can remain vigorous and productive of first class blooms for more than four years or so. After that time they are continually dying back and the fresh shoots are weaker and weaker. In no soil are the finer varieties long-lived, so that considering the small cost of new bushes it would seem the point of wisdom to discard the old ones when they show signs of failing. In replacing, it is wise to avoid using the exact location from which an old bush has been removed, in fact if a different part of the garden can be allotted so much the better.

Last year it was urged that more roses be grown in large pots or boxes as specimen plants to be used on porches or even in houses. If standards be used they make for admirable formal effect. Boxes are preferable as they are cooler. Such experiments should be made in partial shade, and the earth mixture should be heavy with good drainage so that water can be freely applied

with alternations of liquid fertiliser. The specimens seen at nurseries in tin cans and a variety of receptacles must not be taken as representing the limit of possibility in growth. The nursery folks don't want them to grow, only to stay alive, for the nearer dormant they are the better to transplant, so they water as little as possible and fertilise not at all. Experiments along this line are urged strongly. No doubt if the boxes were plunged in the ground or bedded in straw or some material that could be kept damp better results could be obtained.

Varieties that would seem to promise well for this use must be showy and rather compact in growth with a floriferous habit. Here is a tentative list. Frau Karl Druschki for a white, General MacArthur for a red, perhaps Madame Leon Paine for a pink, the Cochet's would not do, and Joseph Hill for a yellow shade. Others worth trying would be Mrs. Aaron Ward, Mrs. Waddell, Madame Cecile Bruner and Duchess de Brabant would no doubt be charming. Also in this connection semi-climbers can be rolled and intertwined with charming effect. The writer turned back a long shoot of American Pillar in the form of a hoop and when it bloomed it was most effective.

Have we evolved to the point were it is safe to advocate a color scheme for roses? Most everybody has a favorite color, each is apt to buy roses of some particular color, so why not a lot of us go in for one color in roses in our gardens? Let us see what this would do for us. In the first place it would let us have a collection without necessitating a rose farm; it would let us send off each year for the few novelties in our color and it would give enough blooms of one color to make a swell decoration. It need not mean abstinence from other colors than the one, except in growing, for yellow would be pleased no doubt to exchange with pink when the baby arrived, and red with white when the firstborn promised to love and obey, if they do that now. It would be a potent factor in mutual admiration promoting as the admiration of yellow by red would not carry the admission that the blooms were finer only that they were good for that color. If this does not appeal will some reader suggest something different for San Diego rose gardens. In San Diego we ought to be different and that is all there is about it.

The Shrubby Border

By P. D. BARNHART, Pasadena

PUBLIC Parks and Private Grounds of large extent devoted to Ornamental Horticulture contain, or should contain, borders in which shrubs are grown exclusively. Books and Periodicals devoted to the subject of Landscape gardening contain lists of such shrubs as are grown in the East or in England; few of which are suited to the peculiar climatic conditions which prevail on this coast; especially in the south half of this state. I have been asked time and again to prepare a list of such as have proven of value, after years of trial, which are suitable for planting in such locations.

It must always be borne in mind when discussing a planting scheme for the part of the heritage of men here named, that plants which will do well in shade are, as a rule, failures in full sun, therefore to make this article completed, two lists must be made out for the benefit of the amateur, and the novice in the Art of gardening. In both lists will be included many subjects which are wholly new to gardeners who have not studied plant life as it is grown in this state, consequently the proper names must be used, since I know of no common names for them.

The size of the border must, of necessity, be governed by the size of the grounds that are to be embellished. No Border should be less than six feet wide; eight feet would be better, and no limit to its length. One of the essentials to success is perfect drainage, without which none but bog plants will attain perfection. A shrubby border once established will give more satisfaction to the gardener than the same amount of space devoted to annuals or bi-ennial plants, and that, too, at much less cost of time, labor and money. In addition to the pleasure derived from the beauty of the shrubs, the birds that find a home and a refuge among the branches will be a source of delight to the lover of all nature. An annual covering of well rotted stable manure, or if it is not to be had, leaves and leaf mould, or a compost made of the refuse of the garden will obviate the necessity of working up the ground. This covering must be at least six inches deep, and into it will the roots of the plants find their way, and revel in the richness and the moisture it contains. This method of gardening is after the natural method, where leaves fall and remain year after year beneath the branches that bore them and, returning to dust from which they came, nourish their parents who in the fullness of time will bring forth a new crop of foliage. It must be understood that a shrubbery, like any other

part of a garden must have some attention during the year to appear at its best. Neglected, it soon becomes unsightly, and a discredit to the person who owns it. There is no great excellence without great labor in any vocation of life, and gardening is no exception to the rule.

Now then to the list of desirables for the Shrubby Border in Sunny Southern California, and that too in the coastal regions of said domain. Full sun list. *Cantua buxifolia*, crimson flowers, tube shaped, borne during the rainy season. *Diosma fragrans*, flowers very small, pure white, foliage heath like and delightfully fragrant, hence the common name "breath of heaven". *Reinwardtia trigyna*, a plant that is erroneously known and grown by California nurserymen under the name *Linum flavum*—yellow flowering flax—which is quite a different subject. It, too, blooms and brightens up the border during the rainy season. Its salver shaped flowers are golden yellow, and beautiful beyond description. *Hardenbergias*, in three colors, white, pink, and purple. They too are "winter" flowering. Into all shrubberies should be worked a few plants of "rosemary" *Rosmarinus officinalis*, and "lavender" *Lavandula vera*. Delightfully scented, they, like sweet spirited people, are welcome in all company. *Polygala myrtifolia*; the magenta colored flowers of this plant harmonize only with flowers of either white or yellow, therefore when made use of among shrubs, this thought should be kept in mind. *Capparis rupestris*, with its large white, cup-shaped flowers, which are filled with long purple filaments, are things of beauty which last but a day—no, only a half day—but a new crop appears every day, from early summer until the damp chilly nights of spring return. From the flower buds of this shrub is made the Caper sauce of commerce. Here is a thought for the "back to the land" fellow who advocates a living and a luxurious one at that, from an acre of land. Of course the buds would have to be picked every day, and the result, no bloom, but what of that when there is the necessity of raising money to pay taxes, buying clothing for the children and an Easter hat for mother. Father can go without shoes or hat. *Streptosorion Jamesoni*. Wonderfully floriferous, and drouth resistant to a remarkable degree, it will not endure as low temperature as the others named, but as a rule comes through our frosty spring season unharmed, *Carissa grandiflora* should be included in this list, not only because of the white fragrant flowers, but when propagated to type, it also bears a crop

of the most delicious fruits, brilliant in color and, unique among fruits, they contain an acid lacteal juice.

Of course no border would be complete without a few berried plants, therefore four of them shall be named. *Cestrum elegans* is brilliant when in bloom, and the flowers are followed by quantities of crimson colored fruits. One of its sisters is known as *Cestrum nocturnum*, the flowers are greenish white—anything but attractive,—but oh! the odor that it exhales at night fills the atmosphere for hundreds of feet in every direction, exquisitely delightful, surpassing in loveliness, love's young dream. Following the flowers are fruits, pearly white, in appearance very like those of the "snow berry bushes". *Symporicarpos racemosus* of eastern gardens. A yellow flowering species of this family is known specifically by the name *Aurantiacum*. It too is very showy when in flower and, like *Nocturnum*, bears white fruits.

Crataegus pyracantha is one of those rugged hardy fellows, who are able to stand heat and cold, sunshine and shadow, drouth, and the disasters that overtake all the tender things previously named, but it is a beauty for all that. The orange scarlet fruits show their color, from about October first to January first. About that time, wild berries and fruits have been consumed by our feathered friends, the birds, and they begin their feast on these. The fourth of the quartet is *Cotoneaster horizontalis*. This is for the front of the shrubbery. There are a number of this family all desirable, but for my purpose at this time but one is specified.

Raphiolepis ovata is another dwarf evergreen shrub, flowers white, which are followed by blue black berries. Eighteen subjects have thus far been named; all of which are exotics. That is, plants from foreign lands, and the list of such, which might be named would fill a page of California Garden, but I think the ones here given will suffice for a start to gardeners who are interested. Anyway, there are enough to make a border ninety feet in length. It would not be fair to the many beautiful natives not to mention an equal number of them for the consideration of he who has the idea, "the garden beautiful" in his head.

To head the list I shall name the queen; *Mimulus glutinosus*. The revisionists of botanical nomenclature have seen fit to rename this with the generic appellation "Diplacus". To this I cannot agree, therefore use the one under which it is generally known. It is one of those subjects which lends its self to cultivation in the hot interior valleys, or the more salubrious coastal regions. And what a beauty it is. A soft yellow, the flowers show themselves almost the entire year when the plant is brought under cultivation and given ordinary care. It fits into any planting

scheme, and should be grown in every garden of the state.

Of the tribe of currants, there are three of exceptional merit. They are known by the names, *Ribes speciosum*; "fuchsia flowering gooseberry". It is not an evergreen as the books say. It will shed its leaves during the summer; in other words go to rest in spite of all the water that may be given it. Along about October it awakens from its sleep and the dark green, smooth foliage appears. The new growth is a brilliant red, covered with innumerable spines of the same color without flowers the plant is a thing of beauty. About the first of the year it puts on its beautiful garment of crimson pendant flowers. He who has seen this plant in all its glory on a bright spring day, as it grows on our hillsides, and not be filled with gratitude to the God of life for the privilege of the sight. is callous indeed. The second member of the family is *Ribes glutinosum*. It blooms in early spring; the flowers a delicate pink, are borne in racemes and individually resemble "Heath" blossoms. The third is *Ribes tenuiflorum*. Yellow are its flowers and come late in the season. There is just one defect in the character of this species; it will sucker freely and soon over-run a border. Of California lilac there are four desirable species, and while they grow to a large size in the wild they may easily be kept within bounds by intelligent pruning. Then, too, *Carpenteria Californica* is all that can be desired in connection with the Shrubby border. The shrubby Lupins lend themselves to cultivation and when in full bloom are very attractive. Two Pentstemons, known as "scarlet honeysuckle" also a yellow flowering species add beauty to such a collection.

Trichostema lanatum, known as "Romero," and "Wooly Bluecurls", (the latter an appropriate appellation,) is unique because of the shape and the color of the flowers, and pretty with all. *Encelia Californica* or shrubby sunflower and the tree poppy, *Dendromecon rigidum* are named last, not because they are inferior, but there must be an end to the enumeration of even desirables for the Shrubby Border.

Why Not Try It?

Alonsoa incisifolia, or as Thorburn Seed Catalog names it, *grandiflora*, is one of the pretty free flowering perennials which does remarkably well in full sun in Southern California. It is as nearly perpetual as any plant that I know of and when used as cut flowers is lasting. The color is a pleasing shade of red, and the size of the blossoms nearly a half inch, makes it attractive. It belongs to the tribe of which snapdragons, and Pentstemons are members. It seeds freely, is easily grown, and to brighten up the front of a shrubby border there is no subject more desirable.

Growing Flowers from Seed

By L. A. BLOCHMAN

QUE of the most interesting if not one of the best ways of growing flowers is Nature's way, from seed. When we consider all of the different sizes and shapes and kinds of seed, and when we study Nature's various ways of distributing the seed and perpetuating her progeny, it is little short of marvelous.

There are different ways of raising our plants from seed. They may be planted where they are to grow, in the green house or in a window box, before the frosts are gone, to get early results, or preferably in shallow seed boxes, or trays. The first requisite of growing flowers from seed is of course the seed itself. You can not raise fine blooms from inferior seed. Get the best seed you can from a reputable dealer and get it as fresh as possible. Of course this is not essential in all flowers. Some seed deteriorates after the first year, some is good for two or three years, while still others retain their vitality for a number of years. If in doubt, the seed may be tested on damp blotting paper. Place the seed thereon, exposed to the sun under a tumbler or jelly glass. Keep the paper moist and in a few days you will see the seed begin to sprout, if it is fresh enough. By counting the sprouts you can form an idea of the virile seed. With some very hard shelled seed, Cannas for example, it will help to soak them for twenty-four hours in warm water before planting.

After the seed, the next requisite is the soil. As a general rule a rich loose soil is the proper soil for most plants. Some require more sand, others more clay, while still others may resent the use of manure, but the large majority of plants will thrive in loose, well enriched soil. Don't be afraid of working the soil too deep. A foot deep and well pulverized is not too deep. In the seed tray the soil need not be too rich. On the contrary, considerable sand will prevent baking and cause the soil to drain better and you take less chance of the seedlings "damping off." Have your seed trays about three inches deep inside and fill the bottom with moss, coarse gravel or something to help the drainage. Sawdust is not bad (not redwood). Fill your trays with finely pulverized sandy soil, shake down and level well with a board to within half an inch of the top. Scatter your seed, not too thickly, and press firmly with a board. Then cover with a light layer of very finely pulverized dirt. The general rule for covering seed is to about four times its size.

For very fine seed, such as petunia, begonia or Calciolaria, it is well to have more moss on the bottom of the tray and after filling

with dirt immerse the tray carefully in a tub of water so as to moisten the soil, then scatter the seed and press into the soil and dust on a very little, very fine dry soil. In watering these fine seeds it will be well to proceed in the same manner as in the planting, being careful not to float off or wash out the seed.

The seed trays should always be kept moist, not wet, and partially shaded. If the sun be too hot, artificial shade should be provided by palm leaves, cloth, or sacking. This should be removed at night and as the plants get large enough and hardy enough may be gradually eliminated altogether. **Never let the young seedlings get dry.** When two or three inches high or when two or three character leaves show up the little plants may be transplanted. Some plants are benefited by being transplanted two or three times. Others, such as mignonette, should be planted where they are to grow and will not bear moving. In transplanting the taller growing plants most of them will be benefited if planted a little below the level of the ground and gradually filled in as the plants grow taller. They will make better root growth and require less water.

Most of the flower seeds may be planted from now on as our coldest weather has passed. Many of the perennials will bloom this year if planted early. The blooming season of many varieties may be prolonged by successive planting and it is well to plant some seed late so as to have bloom in the summer when many varieties will have quit blooming if planted too early.

HOW TO TRANSPLANT POPPYS.

California Garden has a very good friend in little Charlotte Robinson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Alfred D. Robinson. Her contributions to these columns began with criss-cross and zig-zag pencil marks, painstakingly enclosed in an envelope and entrusted to her father for delivery. Then came sentences about some flower she loved the most. And now comes a communication in which she has dared to take issue with her father in the possibility of transplanting poppies. Daddy says it can't be done, but she has done it; so now.

Daddy says we can't but I can. You have your hole dug and get your poppys and put them in the hole. Even if the ground is wet, water them and keep on watering. Take a young plant, dig a hole as big as two inches deep and four inches around. I do it often for big poppies fore inches deep and eight inches around. After they have bloomde you cannot do it. Only the dobel poppies you can do it with. **CHARLOTTE ROBINSON.**

Me and Rainmaker Hatfield

By ALFRED D. ROBINSON



PUT the title thus because this is my first experience in professional interviewing, and I want it understood that if the result is poor it is just as likely to be my fault as Hatfield's.

I love to play at order because I am the most unordered person in the world, so I shall divide Hatfield into headings.



Chas. M. Hatfield

First the man himself. I don't know just what a rainmaker should look like, but Hatfield is quite distinctive, and may be the correct type. He is tall and thin with a light eye that very properly is focused on the sky. He has not the appearance of a bloated monopolist though I believe his peculiar field is very much his own, nor does he carry any of that air of pity for ordinary mortals that is the special garment of those who know more than the rest of us, in their own estimations. For the ladies' information I would say, he is what my little daughter would call a medium blond and shaves close all over.

He was born in Fort Scott, Kansas in 1876 of the usual kind of parents and came to San Diego in 1886.

The peculiar condition of high percentage of humidity in the air and clouds with small rainfall at San Diego excited his interest. He said to himself, after he had thought of it for awhile, "Why not milk the clouds?" Thereupon he got all the available works on meteorology, which he says numbered four, and seriously tackled the situation, and now we come to his record.

In 1902 having evolved a theory which he calls chemical affinity, he put it to a practical test at Bonsall and condensed a fog to a precipitation of three hundredths of an inch. Encouraged by this he bagged ninety-two hundredths the following July, much the heaviest rainfall for that month since 1865, when 1.29 fell.

In 1903 his professional career began with an engagement to produce an inch of rain for Los Angeles for \$50 and he collected his money in two days. The following year opening up dry, Los Angeles raised their bet to \$1000 for eighteen inches by May, and again paid for 19.52. In 1905, in the summer, the Canadian government had him up to Dawson and his operations produced 1.73 against an average of .25 for the month of June. The hydraulic miners wanted more, though the placer operators were reasonably satisfied.

For eight years after that Crow's Landing, in Stanislaus County, cropped heavily with their humidity department under his care, and in 1913 he came nearer to us to undertake a contract to fill their reservoir for the Hemet Land and Water Co. The reservoir was filled and some at least of the residents were duly grateful to Hatfield for they told me so the next harvest time. Then he went back to Crow's Landing till this year when he camped at Morena and in consequence, he says, there has been an abnormal amount of rain.

Naturally it will be asked what does Hatfield do? So far as known he builds towers from one to four in number and conducts chemical "demonstrations". His influence is modestly put by himself at forty miles in each direction but he believes it extends much further. He claims never to have conducted a test without some moisture and considers that his powers are on the increase.

Equally naturally it will be wondered what I think about it having supposedly conducted an investigation? I don't know. I have no information as to the chemical process employed and there is no chance to render proof that cannot be nullified by the mere assertion that it would have rained anyway. Hatfield can give some figures that appear to offer analogous evidence, but he cannot produce a certificate from the normal rain controlling forces that he was a coworker and that is the only evidence that many people will consider. I do not stand sponsor for Hatfield, but he seems to be full of confidence in himself and his perseverance against the jeers of the multitude entitle him to respect.

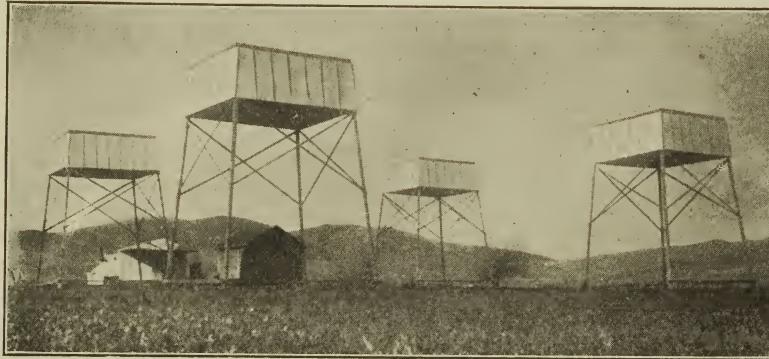
In view of the late surplusage he was asked

if he could limit his operations, whether the rain would stop when he did? at which he smiled a wan smile and said, "There has not been a drop of rain since I came down from Morena, although there have been plenty of indications and the weather bureau has predicted a storm more than once."

Now you have the case before you and you

can formulate your own conundrum, such as a councilman might do thus, "When is a contract not a contract?"

The dates, places and other figures as to rainfall were supplied by Hatfield. Presumably anyone might write and verify the statements. This I have not done except in local instances.



Hatfield's Rainmaking Towers

A Letter from England

West Hartlepool, England, January 16, '16
To the Readers of California Garden:

The year 1915 ended very badly for us from a horticultural point of view, November and December being the worst months for rain in the whole year, consequently several roots which could not be lifted have perished. It rained incessantly during the whole of December, and several times the rain was accompanied by severe thunder and lightning.

I cut the last of my dahlia blooms the third week in November. "Miss Sessions", being such a delicate white, handed in her checks first; then "A. D. Robinson" next; and four days after, according to my recording book, I cut three lovely blooms from "G. T. Keene." The last named is the strongest tubered dahlia I have ever seen and I really think it would winter here if left in the ground with very little protection; however, I am not going to risk it, it is too precious to lose.

Shortly before Christmas I had all my dahlias taken up, the roots very carefully washed and turned upside down to thoroughly dry, and then they were stored away in dry sand until next March, when we start them into growth again. Of course if we wish it may start them earlier in heat and take cuttings.

Chrysanthemums did very well outside with us this year. Every garden seemed to be ablaze with early flowering varieties. It was a good thing they did so well, because the

hospitals were kept well supplied with flowers every day. My wife and children were away for two months during the summer and I used to go down every week end, and it was quite a common sight to see a load of blooms going to the hospitals for wounded soldiers.

When this terrible war is over we shall perhaps get some of our gardening friends back again, and then we shall have to make up for lost time, although from some of the papers we see that they have been "keeping their hand in" by sowing seeds and planting flowers around their camps in France. Brave fellows! I wish they were all safely home again.

Wishing you all in Sunny San Diego the best of luck and prosperity in 1916,

Sincerely yours,

WM. C. KING.

Note—The dahlias spoken of were raised from seed gathered at Rosecroft, Point Loma, and were given names of San Diego people of whom he read in California Garden. In a private letter, Mr. King speaks of having "attested" under Lord Derby's scheme in the last group of married men, and must be ready to go to the front when needed. He says there are 600,000 single men who have not yet attested, and they are the ones the "Compulsion Bill" is aimed at.—G. K.

Monthly Excursion

Through Exposition Grounds

By G. R. GORTON

F this were Japan, and we were Japanese, about now we should probably celebrate "Acacia time", much as the beauty loving Japanese make a festival of Cherry blossom time. Surely the Acacias are worthy of a fiesta in their honor, as witness the gorgeous masses of bloom evident and about-to-be-evident in different portions of the Exposition grounds. They greet the visitor immediately entering the gate—especially the west gate—and continue to meet and charm him from time to time as he makes his tour of inspection up and down the different paths and roadways.

Looking east and a little south from Cabrillo bridge, a whole hillside covered with *Acacia Baileyana*, displaying its charms attracts much attention by reason of the striking foliage effect, even when the shrubs are not in flower. But now, the silver of the foliage loses caste (no pun intended) in competition with the superior charm of the golden bloom. Apparently a gold standard obtains even among plants. Nothing is free from commercialism in these materialistic days.

The Montezuma Gardens suffered considerably from the recent embarrassment of riches in the form of rain, and it was deemed advisable to take advantage of the opportunity to rearrange as well as replant where necessary, so in common with many of the buildings the gardens present an appearance of undergoing reconstruction. There is however, in the northeast corner of the gardens, a group of *Coronilla glauca* and ditto *variegata* which have escaped the hands of the "transplanters" and is well worth seeing. The small, round glaucous leaves are at all times attractive, and the canary yellow flowers still more so.

Just west of the Montezuma Gardens, and skirting a small canyon which is tributary to Cabrillo Canyon, a walk leads to a curved pergola adorned with *Cecil Brunner* roses and honeysuckle and cosily lined with *Eugenia myrtifolia*. Leading to the right from this pergola is another walk which, after devious twists and turns, finally returns to another part of the pergola. This is the Trail of the *Acacia*, at least for the first half of its horse-shoe-shaped course. *Baileyanas* again, floribundas and latifolias abound, followed by peppers, and, forming an undergrowth is a mass of *Vinca major*, the Periwinkle of our grandmother's garden or rather an improved form of it. This is covered with its familiar blue flowers, and is very pleasing, as is indeed the entire effect of this rather obscure spot.

Returning to the pergola, and thence following the path around the stretch of lawn and towards the east, one comes presently upon some very good *Acacia latifolia*. Still further on, just before the Kern-Tulare Building is reached, are several specimens of *Senecio petacitis* intermingled with the groups of cactus, agaves, palms, dracaenas, etc. These are in bloom now, and are interesting as being really yellow *Cinerarias* (a synonymous term being *Cineraria petacitis*). Nearby some *Aloe socotrina* are lifting up there torch-like flowers. In front of the Alameda-Santa-Clara building at the end of the path the row of *Cinerarias* (star *Cinerarias* this time) makes a brave show of color in front of the shrubbery planting.

In many portions of the grounds the *Viburnum tinus*, (or *Laurustinus*, if you prefer the older name) is decidedly at its best at this time. Although it may be found in flower at almost any time of the year, it does not always look as well as now. An especially good specimen adjoins the Commerce and Industries building, (rechristened the Canadian building) and south of the arcade.

All along the Prado, changes may be observed. In some instances the groups are being augmented by the addition of more *Leptospermum*, *Grevilleas*, or other shrubs of species which are already represented there. In other portions of the planting several species of *Ericas*, new to the Exposition grounds, are being planted. In fact, throughout the Exposition the process of thinning out where it is needed, and using the shrubs so obtained to fill in the bare places, has been going on for some time.

Near the east end of the Prado, overhanging the retaining wall north of Spanish Canyon, a good specimen of *Acacia mollissima* is now in full flower. The delicate, feathery foliage of this species, combined with the masses of familiar yellow flowers is different and very attractive.

The first hundred feet or so of the path leading to the Pepper Grove is a riot of red and gold, and when the *acacia latifolia* add their quota of yellow blossoms, it is safe to say that the total effect will be very beautiful.

The planting on the edge of the canyon west of the Botanical building contains a number of *Hardenbergia monophylla alba* in flower. This species, as well as the purple-flowered climber, deserves to be better known and used.

Many more plants have been added to the collection in the Botanical building. More

Azaleas have arrived in the nursery, and will be put in place before this goes to print, several large Birds Nest Ferns are there now, together with more Cinerarias, Primulas, etc. An especially striking effect has been attained by massing Cyclamen near the center of the lath house. There is quite a variety of colors and markings in this group, including a pure white variety which is very good. If you visit the Botanical building soon, ask the gardener to show you Begonia Gloire de Cincinnati, another recent addition, and if the writer is a true prophet, you will add this variety to your list of desirable sorts.

La Lagunita, in front of the building, has a decidedly tired look, as if the strain of being on show, all summer long had had a dispiriting effect upon it and its environs. There is, however, one brave lonesome little plant, which deserves mention, not because it is holding the fort all alone in its flowering, but because it really has many good qualities as an aquatic, chief among them being its fragrant white flowers, bearing a Hawthorn-like odor. This is the Cape Pondweed, Aponogeton distachyon.

Peppermint and Spearmint Industry

The Department of Agriculture has issued a bulletin on the peppermint and spearmint industry in the United States, which shows that this country furnishes about 250,000 pounds of the total annual world production of 600,000 pounds. Practically all of the acreage in this country devoted to this industry is in Michigan, Indiana and New York, and less than 25,000 acres are used.

Mint requires deep soils, rich in humus and retentive of moisture, but fairly open in texture and well drained. Upland soils suitable for corn and potatoes will also grow mint. Successful mint growing implies clean culture at all stages of progress. The crop is cut at full bloom, usually in early September, and is allowed to partially dry in the field before being hauled to the still.

The price of mint fluctuates widely, the

demand for the oil is limited, and if the acreage were rapidly increased over-production would result. To prepare new soil costs about \$30 per acre, and subsequent years about \$15. The yield of oil per acre varies widely, from nothing to 100 pounds. About 325 pounds of peppermint and 340 pounds of spearmint are required to supply a pound of oil in commercial practice, and the price varies as widely as the yield. For peppermint oil in tins the average trade price is \$2.50 a pound, but it has gone as low as 75 cents. Spearmint for five years has averaged \$3.55. The larger growers have their own distilling plants.

Few diseases or pests trouble mint, and on suitable soil, with proper cultivation, yields of from two to three tons of mint herb per acre may be expected.

The Rain Makers

This from the Saturday Evening Post is interesting and would be legitimate game for the investigation department of the New Chamber of Commerce.

The professional rain maker has appeared again, this time in New South Wales, Australia, operating with the approval and at the expense of the government, and using a principle that has a certain amount of genuine scientific basis. This rain maker is the wireless expert for the state. His scheme is to send up a balloon to a height of more than a mile, anchor it, and then send up powerful currents of electricity by wires. From the balloon, this electricity is to be discharged

into the air. He plans to choose a locality where it is known that the air at this height carries much moisture, for it would be useless to try to produce rain in a dry sky.

The theory is that the discharged electricity will bring the particles of moisture together, forming drops, and so making rain. On a small scale this idea is now in use in many industries, such as the settling of dust in cement mills and of soot in chimneys. On a large scale it has been considered as promising by Sir Oliver Lodge, who has urged that it be tried out for rain making but who appreciates that it may prove simply possible, yet not practical.

Keep watch for Monthly Meeting Dates & Places

Pickings and Peckings

By THE EARLY BIRD



SUPPOSE I have heard more sighs and too-bads during the last two weeks, than in all my life before. There seems to be a perfect orgy of feeling sorry either for the feeler or somebody else, but I refuse to be a party to it any longer. I don't care a hang what outside folks are saying about my country, for if they make it bad enough sightseers will flock to gloat over my misery and stay to support my family. There is no attraction at the circus equal to the chance of seeing the lion eat its trainer, and no carnival draws the crowd so surely as disaster. Further, I refuse to believe that we have been even badly hurt by the late floods. Instead we have a chance to reconstruct in certain particulars with certain data that we lacked or had mislaid when we builded before. I am sorry for the sufferers but whining won't help them and I know it hurts me.

Let us turn to the thousand acres benefited by the rain to the one hurt by it, and hear the buzz of the spring as it makes ready to burst forth into a riot of color that few of our citizens have even seen equalled. We are not out of the woods but we have had a January free from those beastly North winds that discourage everything save a thirst and a lawn sprinkler. Selfseeded annuals are coming up and making sturdy plants, the ferns in the canyons are thick with new fronds, and over all the hills a carpet of green is creeping. The slope that has been a forbidding black ever since the fire in mid-summer spread a pall over it and cried "now you are dead", is laughing in its sleeve and replying, "No, I merely slept and by grace of the rain and the warm sun I will hide your ugly deed before summer comes again. Perhaps you did me a favor by making me build new from the roots up." A chance to work, that is what so many have wanted, and it is here. The spade in the garden, the plow in the field, and over all the smell of growth. The scientist now says that the life in the vegetable and man is the same, different only in quantity, not quality. If one could enter into the consciousness of a plant, say a peach tree, at what stage of its yearly cycle would be found the chief pleasure to the tree? Would it be in the new wood agrowing, the blossoms decking every branch with pink, or

the fruit hanging ripe with blushing cheek? Probably in none more than another, but in the effort all through to grow, for in growing is life, not in results at all. Perhaps the tree never even cognises results; it does that which it has to do unmindful of results.

Having started imagining I may as well keep it up for the world of today is seeking refuge from its awful realities in the world of imagination. Each man is saying aloud or to himself, "What will be the outcome?" and his mind follows the question into the land of conjecture. Some folks say this earth is the physical body of a great entity, and it is difficult to dispute the idea, particularly as it would give some kind of a chance to reason why, when its activities cease or go on the rampage. To the physical sensation of the earth, the present war might appear as a most irritating rash, or a bad case of shingles, and it certainly might cause disturbances outside the directly inflamed area. Perhaps it would bring the case nearer home if it were said the earth has La Grippe. There is quite a fascination in this idea of the earth having a circulatory system and how it would explain the mysterious traveling of disease, etc. The combinations are infinite, but I have some, though small, care for my readers' reason.

Coming back on earth, the one we all know, I have seen another analogy between men and trees. Three years ago a polyanthema Eucalypt blew over, so I sawed off its top, dug it a better hole and set it on its feet, bracing it with stout wire. All summer I stumbled over that wire, while the tree leaned upon it and presumably laughed. Finally I stumbled and fell and in the resulting rage, undid the wire from the stake in the ground and coiled it in the tree. The tree put out fresh shoots and new leaves and stood arrogantly straight till up came a strong breeze and over it went again. One more it was topped and straightened and braced but its moral backbone had been demoralized by the wire support so that this year it again lay down on its job and I grubbed it up, for I reflected, 'I am a good Republican, but protection and support can be carried to the point of inhibiting selfsustenance whether it's trees or infant industries.'

The Out-Door Meeting, advertised for March 7, at National City, will NOT be held.

The LATH HOUSE



T is not recorded whether Noah bothered with a lathhouse, but if he did it is to be hoped it was of the higher clerestory construction. One of that kind shows no ill effects from the late unpleasant dampness, and it seems as if it will permit of earlier seasons in the lathhouse operation. It must however be admitted that when the rain it rained every day even the cinerarias got a trifle discouraged, but now they are pushing their green topped leaves with purple underside and some have started to bud. The crotons gave it up in despair and if these warmth-loving plants are to be used it seems as if they must be dug and potted each winter. Why bother with them anyway, the coleus are more brilliant and a hundred different color combinations can be easily raised from twenty-five cents worth of seed. By the way that seed ought to be ordered and anything else you are going to try. You will want some lobelia, the trailing kind for hanging baskets and the compact growing for borders. The double does not come from seed but can be had in plants from local nursery folks. Aralia elegantissima seems supremely happy so that it can be permanently adopted into the lath house family, also the hanging baskets of the little primula, Forbesi, are growing splendidly. This charming plant of the easiest culture, seeded itself upon the moss of the hanging basket and saved all trouble about propagation. Among the seedlings is one nearly white in color and there is a commercial white variety. Streptocarpus planted in the ground are evidently waiting for warmer weather, though those in the unheated glass house are starting to bloom freely. That very soft looking thing, Impatiens, is evidently tougher than it looks for it has not turned a hair or a leaf rather, and is blooming. There is a variety in color so that pink is not the only possibility. A very charming salmon colored one is growing in the Erskine J. Campbell lathhouse. It makes a quick growth and is inclined to sprawl, so give it room. Probably it would be most effective as a background to tuberous begonias and of these we must have thousands. Judging from the wholesale prices quoted in trade papers there is no reason why these tubers should not be sold at fifty cents a dozen or less. In Europe they are used for bedding instead of geraniums in full sun and are very cheap. Here they want partial shade. If shaded too much they grow spindly and must be eternally staked. By the end of this month the tubers can be started in a glass house or warm window. Spread them on moss, (the top side is that with a

saucer like shape,) and keep damp; when started pot in loose sandy compost or plant out. Preference has before been expressed by the writer for the use of pots, because it facilitates arrangement and rearrangement and allows of earlier blooming, but quite a respectable lot of growers disagree with this and prefer planting right in the ground. The Garden does not know where the new hanging varieties shown in Golden Gate Park conservatory San Francisco last year can be had and will be very glad of the information if any reader possesses it. If the tuberous are to be tried outside they should be planted in a sheltered northern exposure. Tubers can be had in colors, white, pink, yellow, orange and red, and in singles and doubles.

Why not some tigridias or shell flowers in the lath house? They come in a variety of colors and each bulb sends up a quantity of bloom shoots. They also bloom in summer and would be very effective in the foreground coming up through lowgrowing ferns.

Iris too, the German kind, should make fine borders in lathhouses, with their handsome flowers and effective leaves.

Again it is urged to box up a few poinsettias—this is the time. When they grow, head back once or twice and get a bushy plant. If you succeed you will have something really effective next Christmas. A number of things, shrubs and the like in boxes will become part of the regular equipment of the lathhouse; they are invaluable for getting immediate effects. The writer has a Japanese Juniper in a box for fifteen years, not one of the dwarfed old men, but just a healthy looking tree, and for two seasons it has come into the house at Christmas time and borne the presents, tinsel, popcorn and electric illumination.

The heavy rains have beaten down the soil in the lathhouse to the limit of packing and unless more rain prevents it should be carefully spaded over and some well rotted manure in generous quantity worked in. It is not good practice to spread manure or any mulch on top of the ground as it is an invitation to slugs and bugs to hold high carnival. For the same reason dead leaves or fronds should be kept off, though like the poor we may have the slugs always with us, we are not obligated to spread a feast for them.

Don't forget things in pots and baskets dry out very quickly compared to those in the ground.

Notices of Meetings will be found on page 14.

The California Garden

Alfred D. Robinson, Editor
G. T. Keene, Manager

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The San Diego Floral Association

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REGULAR MEETINGS

Regular meetings of The San Diego Floral Association on the third Tuesday of every month at 8:00 p. m.

March 21—(a) "Annuals." (b) "Propagation by Cuttings and Division." With Mrs. W. S. Dorland, 3500 Seventh St.

April 18—(a) "Dahlias." (b) "Irrigation." With Mrs. Wm. Simison, Glenartney Station, Point Loma.

May 16—(a) "Lath-house." (b) Begonias." With Mrs. Herbert D. Field, 3026 Date Street.

June—Date to be announced. Annual meeting and Election of Officers.

July 18—(a) "Ferns." (b) "Fall Blooming Plants." With Mrs. W. L. Frevet, 3535 First Street.

August 15—(a) "Violets." (b) "Planting Seeds for Winter Blooms." With Mrs. I. D. Webster, 1028 Thirty-second St.

OUT-DOOR MEETINGS

First Tuesday of the month in the afternoon:

April 4—Miss Sessions, Pacific Beach.

May 7—Mrs. O. E. M. Howard, National City.

June 6—Mrs. Alfred D. Robinson, Rosecroft, Point Loma.

July 11—Mrs. Erskine J. Campbell, Point Loma.

August 1—Mrs. Charles W. Darling, Marcellita, Chula Vista.

JANUARY IRREGULAR MEETING

On the regularly appointed meeting night for January the heavy rainstorm was on and the meeting was postponed for one week. The following Tuesday was also stormy, but the Secretary journeyed to the Frank Salmons residence, where the meeting was to be held, and with Mr. and Mrs. Salmons and Mr. L. A. Blochman, sat around the cheeriest grate fire, with the conversation ranging from gardens to Exposition Isthmuses. Mr. Salmons told of some of his experiences in operating the gem mine on the Isthmus which were mighty interesting and altogether enlightening. As his native gems are dug out of San Diego County hills this mention is not considered out of place.

In lieu of the usual discussion at the meetings, which is reported in The Garden, Mr. Blochman promised us an article on "Raising Plants from Seed," the subject which was to have been considered.

CITY FORESTER QUILTS

Max Watson is no longer City Forester. A good many in San Diego were deeply interested in Mr. Watson's idea of giving needy men work and at the same time developing the City's pueblo lands, but it seems that the City Fathers needed the money in the City Farm fund to build a road, and besides, the farm didn't PAY in the sense of returning immediately interest on the money invested.

At a meeting of the Members' Council of the Chamber of Commerce Mr. Watson outlined as best he could in the very few minutes at his command, what he had done and hoped to accomplish on the farm.

The City has 6800 acres of pueblo lands, 4,000 acres of which are between La Jolla and Torrey Pines, and 2,000 acres of it are considered the most valuable. The land is no good unless developed so Mr. Watson made an arrangement to have men who were down and out, or who needed a place to get a grip on themselves again, sent out to him and they were given their board and lodging and fifty cents per day wages.

Forty thousand trees had been set out in the spring of 1911, a temporary camp established and some roads made. The last three years have been spent in clearing the land, building roads and making other improvements, which Watson believes has increased the value of the land twice what it has cost to do the work.

He attributes the lack of appreciation of his plan to the fact that it has been made no ones especial business to look into the project, and suggests that if any definite plan is to be carried out, the lands must be placed under the control of some separate commission with sufficient power, funds and time to bring about the desired results.

In Our Gardens

FEBRUARY GARDEN

Mary Matthews

WHILE we have had abundant irrigation this past month, in some places super-abundance, it will do more harm than good if the soil wherever it is dry enough to permit is not turned over frequently, kept free of weeds, and well pulverized.

Roses, lots of them, shrubs and trees can be planted with success this month. Among the shrubs try the new Viburnum Carlesii from Korea. It blooms in the late Spring and bids fair to rival our old favorite Viburnum Tinus (laurustinus).

Heliotropes, Verbenas and Petunias can be put in now. Where the ground is well prepared and in a sunny spot put in Carnations.

If you want vines on your house, sheds or along the fence, plant now. But this is a subject which requires careful attention. Vines at the proper time and in the right place are very ornamental, but where planted haphazard they are often far from being a beauty spot. We have such a wealth of subjects to choose from here that anyone ought to be able to find just the right thing for the right spot. Cobaea Scandens is a quick grower and gives good shade. The Cardinal climber introduced two seasons ago is very showy but not permanent. Last month's magazine had an article in regard to the fruiting passion vine, Passiflora Edulia. There is or was a very fine specimen of it on First and Nutmeg. It had a full Western exposure completely covered a brick wall eight or ten feet high and was loaded with bloom and fruit.

February is a good month to put out Poinsettias and we cannot have too many of them in the aggregate. One is enough in a small yard. They were unusually fine this past season, held their foliage late, and the flowers were large and very brilliant. Put in more Sweet Peas for late bloom. Not too late to plant seeds of Asters in boxes to be transplanted later. Pansies should be coming on rapidly now. Plant seeds of any of the common annuals that you care for through the summer.

Many of the summer bulbs can be put in, Gladiolus, Montbretias, Tigridias and if in a warm spot, Tube-Roses can be put in. Tuberous Begonias can be planted in quantities and as to Dahlias they have come to stay and there are so many experts on the subject that you need not hesitate to ask for any advice you want in regard to their care. Rosecroft gardens have given seeds of their choice kinds so generously that we should have a most

glorious display of them in all parts of town this summer, and also be able to say "from home grown seed."

THE VEGETABLE GARDEN

By Walter Birch

The expected change has at last come and we have suddenly jumped into almost summer weather, after about as cold, wet and dreary a time as we ever have in this land of sunshine. Should this weather continue at the present high temperature, things will fairly jump in the garden, particularly the weeds, which have already got a good start. So be sure to go after them at once before the surface gets too hard, which will make the job of getting rid of them very much harder. If you spade them under instead of hoeing them off they will make humus in the soil which is always beneficial.

Owing to the very heavy rains, planting of all kinds has been very much delayed and it will be well to get busy now and keep at it until you have what you want planted in vegetables, flowers, fruit trees and ornamental plants and trees. February is a good month to plant almost anything in the vegetable garden. By the end of the month, if it keeps pretty warm, you can plant beans, peppers, and tomatoes if your location is high and warm and make another planting of all the hardier kinds of vegetables you have already planted.

Get your family orchard set out now. Plant your fruit trees about fifteen feet apart if your space is small, but twenty feet is better if you have the room. If you are fond of peaches try Alexander for early, Elberta for middle of season and Salway for late. In Plums for a good cooking plum plant the Satsuma, and for general purpose try the Wickson and Burbank. In Citrus trees, the Washington navel, for early, and the Valencia for late; and don't forget the Seedless Grapefruit, it bears so well and is so wholesome and delicious for breakfast.

For berries the Logans, Mammoth Blackberries and Himalayas all do well and will bear nicely the second year from planting.

Now that it is getting warm, the rose bushes are beginning to show signs of life in the nursery yards and the sooner they are planted out the better. In planting trees or bushes of any sort don't be afraid to dig good sized holes and spread the roots much as they were before. Don't expect good results if you make small holes and jam the roots in any old way. It is still good time to plant Strawberry plants, Asparagus and Rhubarb roots.

Suburban California



HE Pacific Garden, long published in Pasadena under the editorship of P. D. Barnhart, has with the January number become "Suburban California," and is now in the hands of the Kruckeberg Press of Los Angeles. P. D. Barnhart has severed all connection with it to concentrate on his development of the estate of J. M. Danziger at Sawtelle, but he has made time to write a contribution for the California Garden which is published in this number and promises it is but the first of many. This is good news for the readers of the Garden and insures an improvement even on the high standard of its numbers in the past. It would be presumption almost to dwell upon Mr. Barnhart's unique qualification to write upon matters of the garden, but readers are warned that when their information disputes any statement of his they had better look up authorities.

As to Suburban California, the January number is different in form to the old publication. It seems fatter as if fodder were more come-at-able and is full of matters of interest. It is fortunate we approve of the Editor H. W. Kruckeberg, for he is ubiquity itself. When we made our first convention spiel he was there as Secretary of the Nurserymen's Association. Within six months he turned up as Editor of the Poultry page of the Los Angeles Times and before we had time to get used to him there he was Secretary of the State Branch of the American Poultry Association of which we are an unworthy officer and now he is going to show us how to run a Garden paper and hanged if we don't believe he will do it too. Here's success to Kruckeberg and his Suburban California.



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Cassandra is Reconciled

WHEN the wife was not looking we wandered down into the chicken yards on Sunday afternoon and found Cassandra in much better mood. She said that she had concluded that last month she made altogether too much of the husband question and had forgotten they were now in the class of necessary evils and should be treated as a negligible quantity.

Finding her thus amiable we asked, "Do you think Hatfield had anything to do with the floods?" Without hesitation she replied, "I have not the pleasure of his acquaintance but I don't see why not. You could not lay an egg, yet I sometimes have to or bust, and an egg is a much more complex thing than mere surplus of water. Why don't you ask Noah? He is in the next pen, and has been intolerable for days going around with his beak in the air remarking, 'What do you know about floods anyway?'" On inquiry from this source it was found that Noah would not admit that ours was a flood. He classed it as a mere seepage, and seemed to think the one associated with his name had been a personal stunt of his first namesake, so his view was that rainmaking was easy.

By the way, two sons of Shem are out. They made their debut last week. If you should call, leave cards for Uz and Elam, they are undeniably handsome but not quite dry behind the ears, so don't expect the perfect poise of the old boys.

We really have eggs for hatching and stock for sale very cheap and that Mating List is something different.

Rosecroft Barred Rock Yards

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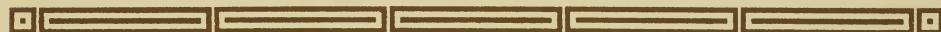
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